



PATENT
Docket No. 4290-4000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Oystein IHLE et al.
Serial No. : 09/870,128 Group Art Unit: TBA
Filed : May 30, 2001 Examiner: TBA
For : **METHOD FOR SEPARATING NUCLEIC ACIDS INTO POPULATIONS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims, 39-96 as follows:

39. A method for at least partially separating nucleic acid molecules in a sample into populations wherein a population is tagged or capable of being tagged with a protein capable of being immobilised on a matrix, wherein the tag interacts directly with the matrix, said method comprising contacting the nucleic acid containing sample with a matrix whereby the tagged molecules are captured by the matrix and thereby separated from untagged molecules.

40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the tag is a protein which can be incorporated into a nucleic acid molecule or a protein which has an affinity for a nucleic acid molecule.

41. The method according to claim 39 wherein the tag is an antigen.

42. The method according to claim 39 wherein the protein is a nucleic acid binding protein.

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